

**Is the current “Main Library” building up to earthquake code requirements? How current is the building with regards to seismic and ADA codes?**

The Main Library was built in 1964; a 9,000 square foot addition was completed in 1993, one year before the Northridge quake that resulted in many improvements to seismic safety building codes.

California has gradually enhanced its building standards. Each severe quake has prompted new building codes, with the most recent major overhaul coming after the 1994 quake in the Northridge section of Los Angeles.

After that disaster, the building code was amended to require among other things, a different way of welding steel that makes the welds less likely to become brittle and crack. That new rule was the result of the Northridge quake irreparably damaging the two new wings of the CSU Northridge Oviatt Library built 3 years earlier to then current code. Both wings had to be subsequently demolished and reconstructed.

California earthquake rules have been significantly improved since our Main Library was built in 1964 and renovated in 1993, and a thorough engineering examination would be required to determine the extent of the Library's structural seismic shortfalls to current codes. Bringing a commercial building up to current codes can cost as much as 150% of the buildings value according to the California Insurance Journal, 2008.

We need to consider the over crowded conditions that the library frequently experiences. In the CSU Oviatt Library, 90% of the books in the stacks were dumped onto the floor because of the earthquake's up-and-down and side-to-side motion. Much of the braced and reinforced shelving updated in 1991 remained standing.

We know our children's story-times are often filled to or beyond capacity, adult presentations overflow the orchard room, there are times when there is little available seating in the children's, teen, or adult areas, and children and teens sit on the floor between filled-to-the-brim book stacks reading. The children's library has no direct exit to the outside. Much of the seating is directly against large plate glass windows. We can do better.

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## **Youth Commission – Ideas for the Los Altos Main Library**

**March 2019**

At the recent Youth Commission, Cindy Hill, Library Commission member, was invited to talk with the commissioners about their use of the library. She asked questions, the Youth commissioners were generous in their responses.

- **Why do they use the library?**
  - School library is closed on the weekends
  - School library closes at 5pm or 6:30, still a lot of study time left in the early evening
  - School library doesn't have study spaces;
  - School library too small
  - Too loud at school
  - Los Altos library is centrally located and easy to get to
  - Los Altos Library has communal area for study and discussion
  - Los Altos Library is a safe environment
- **What does "collaborate" mean to you?**
  - Working on assigned group projects
  - Ideate
  - Working together and/or independently on the same project
  - They most frequently work in pods or groups for their assignments

### **What do they need:**

- 2 stories – to separate various groups
- Teen room 1: quiet room for study
- Teen room 2: room to talk in small groups – okay to talk since it's the "talking room"; more tech in the room
- Larger café – opportunity to take short breaks from studies and able to chat without disturbing others
- Several small spaces that can be reserved for collaboration and group projects (see Mountain View's small, enclosed spaces)
- Different types of work spaces: individual
- Pods (see Univ Penn Wharton School's pods): include white boards, large monitors, outlets, reserve-able
- Space for tutoring (ability to talk without disturbing others) peer-to-peer tutoring, student-adult tutoring
  - Question: Does the library offer tutoring? They could use it (volunteer tutoring)